

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 53

Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes

January 5, 2004

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 53—Relative to the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 53, as introduced, Reyes. The Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to extend the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program for another 2 years.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Breast cancer is considered to be the most
2 commonly diagnosed cancer among women in every major ethnic
3 group in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Breast cancer is still the number one cancer killer
5 of women between the ages of 15 and 54 years; and

6 WHEREAS, More than two million women are living with
7 breast cancer in the United States today, but one million of them
8 have not been diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, Breast cancer claims another woman's life every
10 15 minutes; and

11 WHEREAS, This year, according to the American Cancer
12 Society, more than 200,000 women and men will be diagnosed
13 with breast cancer and, of that number, 40,000 will die from this
14 devastating disease; and

1 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 1585 (Public Law 105-41),
2 also known as the “Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act,” was passed by
3 Congress in August 1997; and

4 WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp, which was
5 put into circulation in 1998, is among the most successful
6 commemorative stamps of all time; and

7 WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp is sold with a
8 surcharge above the price of an ordinary first-class stamp, which
9 now costs 37 cents; and

10 WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp sells for 45
11 cents, 37 cents of which is used to pay for the stamp and, after
12 recovering costs for program administration, the surplus is
13 allocated to the National Institutes of Health and the United States
14 Department of Defense for breast cancer research; and

15 WHEREAS, Since this stamp was put into circulation in 1998,
16 the program has generated more than \$34.5 million for breast
17 cancer research; and

18 WHEREAS, People wanting to make a difference and
19 personally contribute to the fight against breast cancer have
20 purchased 485 million of the semi-postal stamps; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to providing much-needed funding for
22 breast cancer research, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp is an
23 effective means of raising awareness about the disease; and

24 WHEREAS, Grant funds from the “Insight Awards to Stamp
25 Out Breast Cancer,” which are derived from the Breast Cancer
26 Research Stamp Program, help to fund vital research programs at
27 Stanford University, the University of California, Irvine, and the
28 University of California, San Francisco; and

29 WHEREAS, The Breast Cancer Research Stamp Program
30 remains suspended unless Congress passes the federal spending
31 measure that includes funding for the program; and

32 WHEREAS, The extension of the life of the Breast Cancer
33 Research Stamp Program would renew funding for the National
34 Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
37 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully
38 memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to
39 enact legislation extending the Breast Cancer Research Stamp
40 Program for another two years; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
4 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
6 States.

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